

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Independent Claim 1 its remaining dependent claims 2-11 and 21-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103(a) as being unpatentable over French Pat. No. 2,767,810 to Boscher et al. (hereinafter referred to as “Boscher”), either alone or in combination with brochures published by the W. Haldenwanger company, as well as the NIST materials property data summary for sintered silicon carbide.

The method of independent claim 1 is not suggested by any of the cited prior art, and reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Boscher teaches a method for drawing a capillary for a glass capillary tube by using two pairs of rolling bodies, one of which is a driving rolling body 4, and three of which serve as traction rollers 12, 14, 16. Boscher USPTO translation, Page 9, lines 5-16. The driving rolling body 4 is turned by a specific motor set to turn it at a speed that stays constant no matter how much the torque acting on the driving roll 4 may vary. See Boscher USPTO translation, Page 9, lines 11-15. The traction rollers 12, 14 and 16 are each rotated by a motor of a different sort. The traction motors apply and maintain a torque (i.e., a pulling force) on the tube that is constant throughout the entire drawing process. Boscher USPTO translation, page 9, lines 21-24. The design of the traction motors ensures that the torque applied on the traction rollers is kept the same throughout the drawing process, despite any variations in the rotational speed of the rollers 12, 14 and 16. Id.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a method for producing a cylindrical glass body in a vertical drawing process in which the reference rolling body and the auxiliary rolling body or bodies

each has a respective varying torque acting thereon which is dependent on the variable weight of the drawn-off glass strand. The method includes determining a value correlated to the torque acting on the reference rolling body and using the determined value as a setpoint torque for adjusting the torque acting on the auxiliary rolling body or bodies. This value is determined repeatedly or continuously. In this method, the torque on the reference rolling body changes during the process, and the torque on the auxiliary rolling body is adjusted to approach that torque as a setpoint value.

In Boscher, the torques of rollers 12, 14 and 16 are all constant. Boscher nowhere suggests determining a variable torque acting on the reference rolling body and using that determined value as a variable setpoint torque for repeatedly or continuously adjusting the torque acting on its auxiliary rolling bodies, which in Boscher is constant. In fact, the system of Figure 3 of Boscher depicts a secondary drive means 40 that supports the weight of the drawn strand. Consequently, the weight of the tube acting on the driving roll 4 and the traction rolls 12, 14 and 16, is constant over time, rather than variable. Boscher USPTO Translation, Page 14, Lines 3-12 and Figure 3. Regulating the torque of auxiliary rolling body or bodies as a function of the weight of the drawn-off strand, as in the present invention, is therefore inapplicable to Boscher.

Therefore, Boscher fails to suggest a method as recited in claim 1.

The brochures published by the W. Haldenwanger company, as well as the NIST materials property data summary for sintered silicon carbide are cited only to suggest use of dependent features of claim 1, which does not impact upon its patentability.

Independent claim 29 recited a method for producing a cylindrical glass body in a

vertical drawing process in which the reference rolling body torque value is used as a variable setpoint torque for the torque acting on the auxiliary rolling body, and claim 29 distinguishes over the cited prior art for reasons similar to those expressed above in regard to claim 1. Its allowance, together with its depending claim 30, is respectfully requested.

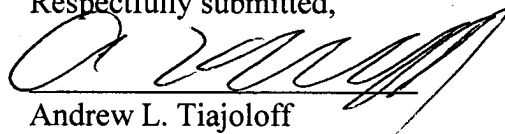
All claims having been shown to distinguish over the prior art in structure, function and result, formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise, the Patent Office is invited to telephone attorney for applicants at 212-490-3285.

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Respectfully submitted,



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